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Making sense of the world



# THE WEEK

## Junior

THE BEST  
MAGAZINE FOR  
CURIOUS  
KIDS



# BIG & BRAWNY

The Fat Bear Week competition  
is about to begin! p10





# This week's big news

## FAST FACT

A 2023 survey by Pew Research found that almost half of 13- to 17-year-olds in the US use Instagram at least once a day.



The new policies apply to users under age 18.

## Naming a company



Instagram's founders came up with its name by combining the words "instant" and "telegram." The original logo (above) depicted a Polaroid camera, which was invented in the 1940s to instantly take and print photos. A telegram, invented in 1837, was a message sent long-distance over electrical wires.

# Instagram sets new rules for teens

On September 17, the Instagram social media app announced an overhaul of its policies related to young people. The changes are intended to protect millions of users under age 18 and address concerns about teen safety online.

## What happened?

Instagram's new initiative, called "Teen Accounts," is now the default setting for minors (people under age 18) who use the app. It includes privacy, content, messaging, and permission settings that determine what teens can see and share in the app, who they can interact with, and how many hours a day they can use it. The changes also enable increased parental supervision of their child's use of the app. Meta, the company that owns Instagram, said the plan will help young users have an experience that is more appropriate for their age.

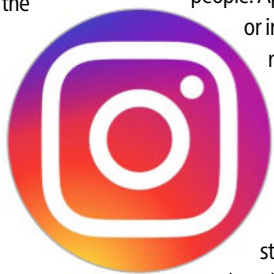
## What are the rules?

The accounts of anyone under 18 will now automatically be private, meaning none of their content will be publicly viewable. A teen's posts can only be seen, liked, or commented on by people they have approved as followers. The app will block direct messages to minors from people they don't follow. While teens can select topics they

would like to see more of, like sports or music, the app will filter content for offensive words and sensitive topics. In addition, Instagram will block notifications to minors between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Parents will be able to track the time their teen spends on the app, set time limits, and see who teens have messaged. Account holders who are 16 or 17 will be able to change these default settings by themselves, but younger teenagers will need a parent's permission to make changes.

## Why is this significant?

The changes came in response to concerns among parents, health experts, and elected officials that social media is harmful to young people. Apps often allow teens to see mature or inappropriate content and receive messages from strangers. Social media is also designed to hold users' attention. That can lead to excessive use of the platforms, which can be particularly harmful for young people, whose brains are still developing. In addition, research has shown that children ages 12 to 15 who spend more than three hours a day on social media face a higher risk of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. In June, Dr. Vivek Murthy, the US Surgeon General (nation's top doctor), proposed placing warning labels on



apps to bring attention to these risks, and the US government is currently considering bills that expand online privacy and safety rules for children.

## How did people react?

Instagram said on its website that "This new experience is designed to better support parents, and give them peace of mind that their teens are safe with the right protections in place." Megan Moreno, a pediatrics professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health who studies adolescents and social media use, said the app's changes were "significant." But critics said that while Instagram's efforts were a step in the right direction, they don't go far enough. In particular, the rules apply only to teens who self-identify as being under age 18 but don't address teens who pretend to be adults when they set up an account. Instagram said it is working on new ways to verify users' ages.

## What will happen next?

Teen Accounts settings are in effect for new users, and existing accounts of minors in the US, UK, Canada, and Australia will be updated in the coming days. The rules will go into effect in other parts of the world starting in January 2025. Meta, which also owns Facebook and WhatsApp, said it would impose similar new rules on its other apps in the months ahead.



## Norway hits an EV milestone

Norway has become the first country in the world to have more electric vehicles (EVs) than gas-powered cars on its roads. Of the millions of private cars in the nation, 754,303 are EVs and 753,905 run on gas. Gas-powered vehicles burn fossil fuels, which emit greenhouse gases (gases that remain in Earth's atmosphere and warm the planet), while EVs do not.

More than 90% of new car sales in Norway are electric. That number has been steadily increasing, due in part to incentives for buyers. EV owners in Norway pay lower tolls, lower parking fees, and no sales tax on their car purchase. They can drive in bus lanes, and charging stations are free and easy to find throughout the country.

Norway's goal is to end the sale of gas-powered cars by 2025. Globally, about 18% of car sales are EVs. In the US, that number is 7% because of high costs and limited charging stations. Critics said Norway is only able to fund its green initiatives by using money it makes by exporting oil, which is a fossil fuel.



EVs in Norway



The Fox Theater in Atlanta, Georgia

## A concert for Jimmy Carter

A concert celebrating former President Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday took place at the Fox Theater in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 17. More than 4,000 people attended the event, which marked the first celebration of a US President turning 100. Carter, whose birthday is on October 1, is the longest-living President in US history.

Carter is known for his love of music and his understanding of its power to bring people together. Musical performances spanned a variety of genres and included BeBe Winans, Angélique Kidjo, the B-52s, Eric Church, and Chuck Leavell. President Joe Biden and former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton sent video messages, in which they spoke about Carter's legacy. Attending in person were Bernice King, daughter of civil rights leader Martin Luther

King Jr., and players from the Atlanta Braves, Carter's favorite Major League Baseball team.

Carter, who is currently under medical care at his home in Plains, Georgia, did not attend. His family said he plans to watch the concert when it airs on Georgia Public Television on October 1.

Carter was elected President in 1976 and served one term. He and his wife, Rosalynn, then devoted their lives to humanitarian causes and founded the Carter Center, which focuses on global health and peace. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Rosalynn Carter died in 2023.

Although the evening celebrated Carter's many achievements, it was also about something simpler, said his grandson Jason, who runs the Carter Center. "Really," he said, "it's about him as a human."



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### A WINNING WATER LILY

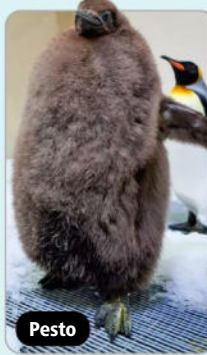
A Victoria water lily at the Missouri Botanical Garden won top prize in a "water lily weigh off." The plant, which measures 5 feet across, held 142.1 pounds of weight placed on it. The win was "pretty awesome," a staffer said.



The lily and its trophy

### A MIGHTY CHICK

A massive king penguin chick named Pesto is causing a monumental sensation. Although he's only 9 months old, the fluffy male weighs 49 pounds (more than both of his parents combined), eats at least 25 fish a day, and has billions of social media views. Pesto is a "chonky king," said the Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium in Australia, where he lives.



Pesto

### SHARING A BIRTHDAY

Identical twins Marilyn Wright and Madelyn Casper celebrated their 102nd birthday together on September 15 with a big cake and lots of friends and family. The sisters, who live in Ohio, are "two peas in a pod," said Casper. Their advice for others, Wright said, is "Be kind to your neighbor. Just show kindness."



Marilyn Wright (left) and Madelyn Casper





**TOP PRIZE**  
Congressional Gold Medals are made of gold and are custom-designed by the US Mint, the agency that produces coins.

## The first recipient



George Washington, the first US President (shown above), was the first person to receive a Congressional Gold Medal in 1776. He received the honor for commanding the American army to victory against British soldiers in Boston, which helped the US gain its independence.

## Medals awarded to pioneering NASA scientists

**F**our Black women who worked as scientists for NASA (the US space agency) have been recognized with Congressional Gold Medals. The medals, awarded on September 18, are the highest and oldest honor that Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) gives to citizens.

### What happened?

Medals were awarded to Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Christine Darden for their contributions to the US space program in the 1960s. Their work was overlooked until the book *Hidden Figures*, which told their story, was published in 2016. A film followed soon after, and the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act was introduced in Congress in 2019. The act had to be approved by 66% of the members in the House.

### Why were the women recognized?

The four women, who worked in a department at NASA that unjustly separated Black employees from white employees, became known as "human computers" for their mathematical abilities. They calculated projections for important NASA projects, including the 1969 Apollo 11 mission, which resulted in the first Moon landing. Before that, in 1962, Johnson helped John Glenn become the first astronaut to orbit Earth. He had asked Johnson to provide the mission's calculations because he trusted her more than the computers.

### What happened at the ceremony?

Johnson, Jackson, and Vaughan were honored posthumously (after their death), with their families accepting the award on their behalf.

Darden, age 82, watched the ceremony from her home in Connecticut, with a relative attending for her. At the ceremony, Mike Johnson, the Speaker (top leader) of the House, said the women were "the very foundation upon which our rockets launched and our astronauts flew and our nation soared." A fifth Congressional Gold Medal was also given to honor all the women whose work as NASA scientists in the mid-1900s went unrecognized.

### What will happen next?

Congress is working to award a medal to tennis legend Billie Jean King, age 80. On September 17, it passed a bill to make King the first solo female athlete to receive the honor, in recognition of her work advocating for equality for women and LGBTQ people on and off the tennis court.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### MILESTONE

Today, when we reach a milestone, it means we have made a significant achievement or progress toward a goal. Originally, the word was used literally to describe a stone or pillar next to a road that showed the distance in miles from that point to a particular place. These types of signposts have existed since Roman times.

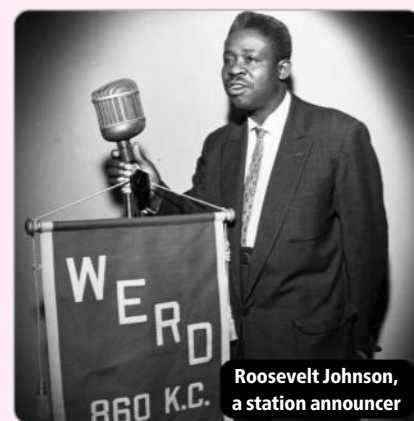


## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### October 3, 1949

#### Historic radio station goes on air

On October 3, 1949, WERD, the first Black-owned radio station, began broadcasting in Atlanta, Georgia. It was owned by Jesse Blayton, a Black man who was the president of a bank and a college professor. WERD played a mix of genres, including jazz and gospel. During the civil rights movement in the 1960s, the station aired the sermons and statements of Martin Luther King Jr.



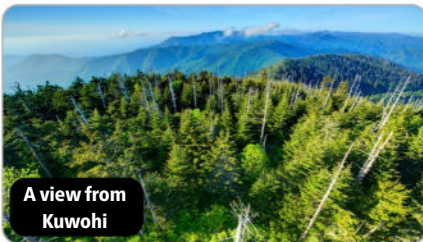
Roosevelt Johnson, a station announcer





## Early in-person voting begins

Voting in the 2024 election began on September 20 when polling sites opened across Virginia. The same day, people in Minnesota and South Dakota who had requested an absentee (mail-in) ballot could submit them at an election office instead of returning them by mail. By mid-October, about 20 states will have opened in-person sites where people can cast their vote for President and other elected officials. The general election is set for November 5.



A view from Kuwohi

## Mountain peak's name restored

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park's highest peak, which straddles North Carolina and Tennessee, has had its original Cherokee name, Kuwohi, restored. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians had requested the change. Since 1859, the peak had been called Clingmans Dome, after a lawyer who later fought to preserve slavery. More than 650,000 people visit Kuwohi each year.



## Toy Hall of Fame finalists chosen

The National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, New York, has named 12 toys as finalists for inclusion in its all-time top toy list. The finalists (shown above) represent "a wide range of play," a museum spokesperson said. They include Transformer action figures, *Choose Your Own Adventure* books, a stick horse, and Hess toy trucks. The three Hall of Fame inductees will be announced in November.



**BREAKING A BARRIER**

Joseph Marion Hernández became the first Hispanic person elected to Congress in 1822.

Performers at a Hispanic Heritage Parade in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2023

# Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated

The US is celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15. It honors Hispanic communities and their contributions to the US. The theme this year is "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together."

The term Hispanic refers to anyone who comes from or is descended from people who came from Spanish-speaking countries. This includes Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Official recognition of Hispanic heritage began in 1968 when President Lyndon Johnson signed a law declaring the week of September 15 to be National Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the week to a month.

September 15 was chosen as the start of the observance because five Central American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua—celebrate their independence days on that date. The

independence days of Mexico, Chile, and Belize also fall within National Hispanic Heritage Month.

President Joe Biden hosted a special reception at the White House in honor of the month on September 18, and the White House held part of its press briefing that day in Spanish.

Many events are taking place in US schools and cities. Virginia Commonwealth

University in Richmond opened

El Centro, a new center to

support Latino students. In

Atlanta, Georgia, a school

held a family fiesta. A

two-day Hispanic festival

will begin in Tampa, Florida,

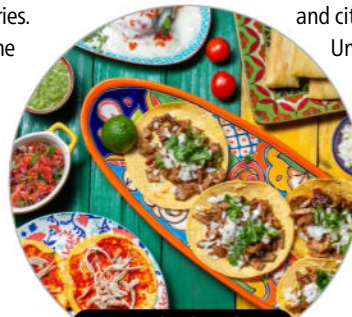
on September 28. New York

City's Hispanic Day Parade will

take place on October 13.

Museums are also participating.

The National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC, is offering tours of its exhibit *¡Presente! A Latino History of the United States*. At the Museum of Broadway in New York City, an exhibit highlights the contributions that Hispanic and Latino people have made to theater.



Festive food marking Mexico's independence

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

**"Emu spotted roaming around Pittsburgh suburb" ABC News**







# Around the world



The coffin



## Paris, France

### Historians find poet's coffin

Repair work at Notre-Dame Cathedral led to the discovery of the tomb of an important poet. Notre-Dame's roof and spire were destroyed by a fire in 2019 and are now being rebuilt. During the restoration, archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) have conducted digs at the site. They found a lead coffin believed to belong to Joachim du Bellay (1522–1560), who wrote influential poetry of the French Renaissance era.



Planting corals



## Dominican Republic

### Young corals survive heat wave

According to a new study, young corals that scientists bred and planted in coral reefs survived a heat wave last year. A coral reef is a structure formed by thousands of tiny animals called corals. Rising water temperatures can harm coral, but 90% of young corals in reefs around the Dominican Republic and nearby countries stayed healthy despite record-high heat. This finding gives scientists hope for the future of the reefs.



Protesters in Bolivia



## El Alto, Bolivia

### Protests over nation's leader

On September 22, thousands of supporters of ex-president Evo Morales gathered in El Alto as part of a march toward the country's capital, La Paz. Morales wants to be the Mas party's candidate for president in next year's election. Because the country's current president, Luis Arce, intends to run as the Mas party's candidate, Morales called for protests against Arce.



## Sweden

### School to start at younger age

The Swedish government announced that children will soon begin school at age 6, a year earlier than they do now, because test scores have dropped. Six-year-olds usually go to preschool, but starting in 2028 this will be replaced with an extra year of elementary school. Critics say young children benefit more from play than structured lessons.



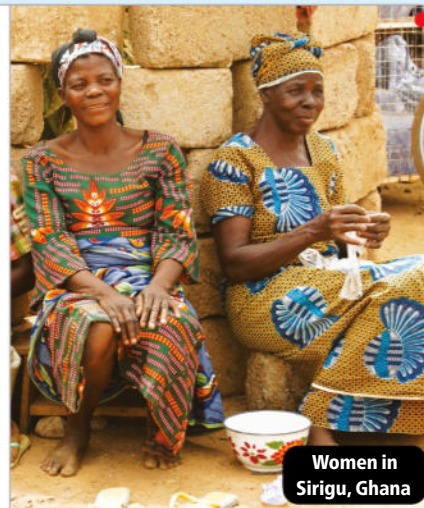
Kids will start school at age 6.



## Accra, Ghana

### New equality law

Ghana has officially passed a law to improve gender equality. The law is designed to enable more women to hold important jobs, including government positions. It also establishes punishments for people who discriminate against employees because of their gender. Lawmakers have been discussing the bill since it was first proposed more than 25 years ago. President Nana Akufo-Addo signed it into law on September 19.



Women in Sirigu, Ghana

EGYPT: MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES (2); PAUL SELVAGGIO/SECORE INTERNATIONAL; DENIS GLUKSMAN, INRAP; ENERGIIAS MONETA; GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK



# Around the world



The coin

## **Riga, Latvia** **Science-themed coin released**

On September 26, Latvia's central bank released a collectible coin dedicated to science. The coin shows the particles involved in the nuclear fusion of hydrogen—a process that powers the Sun. Scientists believe nuclear fusion could be a future source of pollution-free energy, but it requires incredibly high temperatures and pressure.



A flooded beach

## **Emilia-Romagna, Italy** **Evacuations after Storm Boris hits**

On September 19, Italian authorities said that about 1,000 people had been evacuated from their homes following flooding in northern Italy. That same day, the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations) announced nearly \$11.2 billion in funding to help all countries affected by Storm Boris. The storm's heavy rains caused the flooding in Italy and damaged many parts of central and eastern Europe.



Elderly people in Tokyo

## **Japan** **Elderly population soars**

The number of elderly people in Japan has reached its highest level yet, at 36.25 million. People who are at least 65 years old now make up nearly one third of the Japanese population—a higher proportion than in any other country of its size. Data shows that one in seven people who currently have a job are elderly. Some experts are concerned that when they retire (stop working) there won't be enough young people to replace them.



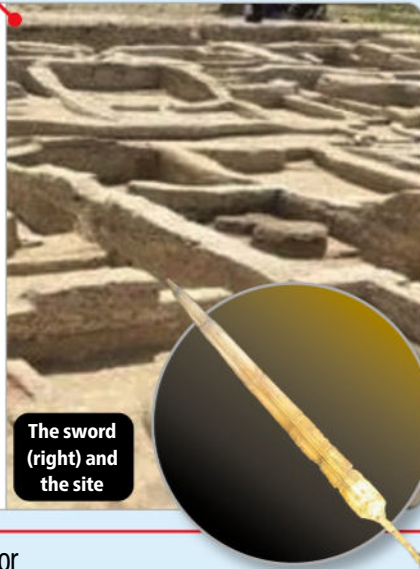
Aqaba, Jordan

## **Jordan** **Success in ending disease cases**

The World Health Organization announced that Jordan has become the first country in the world to officially eliminate leprosy, a disease that begins by damaging nerves (bundles of fibers that carry electrical signals through the body). Leprosy is curable, and treating it early can prevent permanent damage. Jordan has had no reported cases for more than 20 years.

## **Beheira, Egypt** **Sword discovered**

Scientists have uncovered an ancient bronze sword, engraved with the name of the Egyptian king Ramses II, along with other artifacts, at a 3,200-year-old army fort in northeast Egypt. Experts believe the weapon belonged to a high-ranking officer during Ramses II's reign (1279–1213 BCE). They say the sword is unusual because it was found at a defensive site rather than a tomb and still has a reflective shine after thousands of years.



The sword (right) and the site





## The big debate

# Has reality television gone too far?

Some people find reality TV entertaining, but others think it's over the top.

### What you need to know

- Reality TV shows are typically shows that do not have written scripts and star regular people instead of professional actors.
- One report found that nearly half of all TV shows watched in the US are reality shows.
- Reality television shows are cheaper to produce than traditional scripted TV shows.
- A recent study found that in 2024, 33% of Americans ages 18 to 29 watch reality TV.



There are so many kinds of reality TV shows, from competitions like *The Great British Baking Show* and *Project Runway* to business programs like *Shark Tank* to animal shows like *The Dog Whisperer*. The genre first came to US audiences in the 1990s and skyrocketed in popularity in the 2000s. Today, reality TV is a multibillion-dollar industry and a major part of popular culture. Some people say there are too many shows, though, and complain that they feature fake or exaggerated storylines and situations in an effort to win audiences. Other people think they're still entertaining. What do you think? Has reality television gone too far?

### Yes—it's just so fake

There's nothing real about reality television. These shows may not have actors or scripts, but they're still fake—so what's the point in watching? Many shows place an unhealthy emphasis on money and beauty, which makes viewers feel bad about their own lives and can harm their mental health. Competition shows can also promote the idea that it's OK to do anything in order to win, which is a terrible lesson for viewers. Finally, it's no fun to turn everyday hobbies like baking or crafting into competitions. People should enjoy those hobbies for the sake of doing them, not so they can win a contest or get on television.

### No—it's all in good fun

Reality TV is harmless entertainment that viewers know isn't "real." It still gives people something to bond over when they talk about the latest episode or host watch parties. There are plenty of reality shows that are good-natured and not mean. Even competition programs can teach viewers that getting ahead often involves hard work, discipline, and sticking to a goal. Reality shows can also demonstrate the value of teamwork and getting along well with others. Finally, reality shows like kids' baking or crafting competitions can give participants a creative outlet and inspire viewers to take up a new hobby or find a new passion.

**YES**

### Three reasons why reality television has gone too far

- 1 Many shows make it seem like money and looks are the only things that matter.
- 2 They also promote the idea that people should do anything to win, which isn't a positive message.
- 3 Reality shows turn people's hobbies or passions into competitions when they should just be for fun.

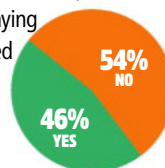
**NO**

### Three reasons why reality television has not gone too far

- 1 Audiences know reality television isn't real, but it's still a lot of fun and a good thing to bond over with others.
- 2 Competition shows demonstrate values like hard work and cooperation.
- 3 The shows can be super creative, letting participants demonstrate their skills and inspiring audiences to try something new.

### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if it should be illegal to text and walk. It was a close vote, with just over half of you saying that distracted walking should not be a crime.



### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think reality television has gone too far or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

**The goal of the big debate** is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.





# Ready for takeoff

Emily Calandrelli's longtime love of science has paved her way to space.

As an aerospace engineer, TV host, and author, Emily Calandrelli, nicknamed "Space Gal," is dedicated to inspiring and educating young people about the wonders of space. Now she is preparing for a major mission: a journey aboard an upcoming Blue Origin space flight.

Calandrelli, age 37, is set to become the first woman from West Virginia to travel to space. Growing up, she never imagined this would happen. Her family didn't have much money, and she chose to study engineering because she wanted a practical career with financial stability. "While I wasn't always the smartest kid in the room, I was usually the hardest worker," she told *The Week Junior*.

Calandrelli earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering at West Virginia University and continued her

studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She then began working in TV as the host of the show *Xploration Outer Space*. Later she appeared on *Bill Nye Saves the World* and co-produced and starred in the Netflix series *Emily's Wonder Lab*. She has

also written nine books, including the *Ada Lace* series (with Tamson Weston). One of her goals, she told *The Week Junior*, is for kids to see themselves working in science fields.

The Blue Origin flight, which does not yet have a launch date, will send Calandrelli and five others into space for 12 minutes. She said she is excited to view Earth from beyond its atmosphere. Fewer than 100 women have been to space, and she is honored to become one of them. "I feel a sense of pride and joy to be part of that," she said.



Calandrelli in zero gravity



Emily Calandrelli

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
NASA selected its first class of female astronauts in 1978.

# Musician for a cause

Folk and pop artist Noah Kahan, age 27, has been using his global tour to promote mental health initiatives. Through the Busyhead Project, which he launched in 2023 under the Vermont Community Foundation, he has raised more than \$2 million from ticket sales and fan donations. The tour promoting his 2022 breakthrough album *Stick Season* ends this fall. "It's no secret I pour my mental health into my music," said Kahan, who struggles with anxiety and depression. "I will always continue to do so."



Noah Kahan



Eli Mackey

# Writing with passion

Eli Mackey, a seventh-grader from Virginia, has written and self-published the nonfiction book *Turtle Tales: Discovering the Watery World of Terrapins*. Inspired by his first pet turtle, Bowser, it explores species native to the US. His knowledge of turtles deepened while volunteering at a local science museum. "They're interesting when they bask," he said. The Bennett Center, which trains young entrepreneurs, provided support as he became an author, helping him develop the business and public speaking skills to promote the book and share his enthusiasm for turtles.

# OVERHEARD



**"It's definitely the five siblings I have reminding me to wash the dishes."**

*Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* actress Jenna Ortega, age 22, on how she stays grounded while working in Hollywood





# Animals and the environment



**LARGE PORTIONS**

Bears in Katmai National Park eat up to 40 salmon per day. That's about 100 pounds of fish.

Last year's winner, 128 "Grazer"

## Enormously entertaining

A new streaming series on Peacock follows the brown bears of Katmai National Park as they fish, eat, and raise their cubs. Narrated by actor Rhys Darby, *The Hungry Games: Alaska's Big Bear Challenge* rates the bears on "beefiness, ingenuity, and grit" while the animals pack on the pounds.



# Fat Bear Week contest is back

Fall is in full swing, which means the fat bears are back in action! Every year, brown bears spend the season feeding on as much salmon as they can catch, putting on weight in preparation for the cold winter ahead. The 11th annual Fat Bear Week, a celebration of the animals as they bulk up in Alaska's Katmai National Park, will take place from October 2–8.

Gaining weight is important for bears before they hibernate (go into a deep sleep) to save energy during the winter. While hibernating, bears do not eat or drink and can lose up to one third of their body weight. This means they must have plenty of fat to spare

before winter begins. From June to October, many bears in Katmai head to the Brooks River to fish for a salmon feast. The park has set up cameras in the area so people can watch the animals on a livestream.



806's Spring Cub in fall 2023

People worldwide have been rooting for Katmai's burly bears since 2014, when a park ranger created a contest called Fat Bear Tuesday. Now the competition lasts for a week.

Bears are sorted into pairs in a bracket (a type of chart), and fans go online throughout the week to vote for the bear they think is fatter out of each pair. The bears with the most votes move on to semifinal and final rounds until one big bear

emerges as the winner. Last year more than a million votes were cast, and a fierce female bear named 128 "Grazer" claimed her first title.

Shortly before Fat Bear Week, cubs compete in a two-day Fat Bear Junior contest, which is set to take place this year from September 26–27. The Junior winner is then added to the bracket for the main event. In 2023, a young bear known as "806's Spring Cub" was crowned as the chubbiest cub after many courageous fishing expeditions in the river with his mom. He advanced to the semifinals of Fat Bear Week before losing to an adult male named 32 "Chunk."

What will happen this year? The bears have been gearing up for an exciting competition. Go to [fatbearweek.org](https://fatbearweek.org) to see the competitors and vote for Katmai's next heavyweight champion.



## PLACE OF THE WEEK

Monhegan Island, Maine

Monhegan Island lies 12 miles off the coast of Maine. The island measures less than one square mile, and its rocky shores are reached only by boat. Fewer than 100 year-round residents live in the village. It has no paved roads, and visitors' cars are not allowed. A highlight of the island is its 18 hiking trails from the west side to the east, where harbor seals, many species of birds, and dramatic cliffs can be seen from the coastline. Two thirds of the island is a nature preserve, with more than 400 species of wildflowers growing among wild grass and pine trees.



A harbor seal





## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Each individual Amur leopard can be identified by its spot patterns, which are as unique as human fingerprints.



Lena has been described as "feisty" and "inquisitive."

## Leopards match on "dating site"

Single, spotted, and looking for love: An extremely rare Amur leopard has found a potential mate with the help of an online animal "dating" service. Officials at Dartmoor Zoo in the UK listed Freddo the leopard on the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) to find his perfect match.

Amur leopards are the world's rarest big cats. About 140 live in the wild, and about 200 are in zoos. Nine-year-old Freddo came to Dartmoor as part of a program to produce cubs and eventually reintroduce the species to its native home in northern Russia.

The ZIMS database, which includes more than 22,000 species, is designed to help boost the populations of rare animals. Zookeepers can upload an animal's profile, such as its medical records and behavioral characteristics, and see a list of suitable breeding partners. ZIMS identified a female Amur named Lena from the UK's Colchester Zoo as a potential mate for Freddo, and she was transferred to Dartmoor. Zoo officials are taking it slow, letting Freddo and Lena get to know each other and seeing if they will get along as a breeding pair.

## Animal of the Week

### Tuatara



A new home that mimics tuataras' native habitat has been built at Chester Zoo in the UK. Tuataras have roamed New Zealand for 200 million years. In 2016, Chester Zoo was the first to breed them elsewhere, and now six tuataras live at the zoo.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 120 years
- **HABITAT:** Forested islands of New Zealand
- **SIZE:** 19 to 31 inches long, up to 2.8 pounds
- **DIET:** Mainly insects, sometimes birds or lizards
- **FUN FACT:** Tuataras have a third eye on top of their heads, which might help them detect light.



## Good week / Bad week



### Beavers

Beavers are making a comeback after disappearing from the UK for almost 400 years. They were reintroduced about 20 years ago and had a "baby boom" this summer. There are now about 600 to 800 beavers in England and 1,500 in Scotland.



### Birds in cities

Researchers found that wild birds living near human cities carry bacteria that cannot be treated by antibiotics. The study looked at 30 species, including gulls, crows, and ducks that spend time near landfills or contaminated bodies of water.



## "How do jellyfish breathe?" Ari, 9, New York

### Joseph K. Gaydos

Senior wildlife veterinarian, SeaDoc Society, UC Davis SVM

Jellyfish (also known as jellies) need oxygen to survive, but they don't have a respiratory system like ours to breathe air in, extract oxygen, and expel waste gases. Instead, they have such a thin layer of outer tissue that the oxygen in seawater can pass through it directly into their body.



Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Find out more about UC Davis SVM at [vetmed.ucdavis.edu](http://vetmed.ucdavis.edu).





## All about the NYC subway system

# The trains that make

### New York City is marking the 120th anniversary of its underground trains.

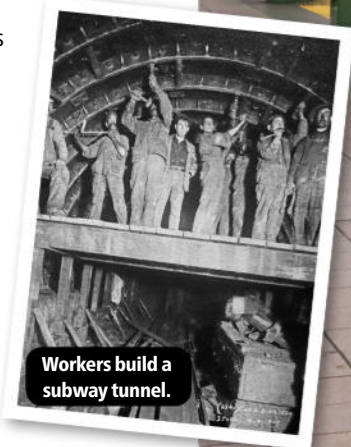
The New York City subway system, the largest and busiest in North America, includes 472 stations, 665 miles of track, and more than 6,000 subway cars. Let's look at how it began.



The Great  
Blizzard of 1888

### Before the subway

Public transportation in New York City started in about 1827 in the form of horse-drawn carriages, which carried passengers on slow and bumpy rides. In the 1860s, the city began to develop a transit system of elevated trains, built on tracks above the ground. In 1870, inventor Alfred Ely Beach opened a prototype (test model) of an underground subway that consisted of one train car and traveled one block, but it shut down in 1873. Years later, the Great Blizzard of 1888 knocked out transportation, inspiring support for a subway.



Workers build a  
subway tunnel.

### How it was built

Construction on New York City's first subway line began in 1900. Workers made the lines by cutting open streets and digging a trench, then rebuilding the streets to cover the tunnel. For tunnels deeper underground, workers cleared away rock with pickaxes, shovels, air-powered drills, and dynamite. Some subway tunnels were built underwater, about 30 feet below the bottom of the East River. These tunnels had to be pumped full of pressurized air to prevent the tunnels from collapsing, and workers could stay in them for no longer than three hours.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The New York Transit Museum is located in a former subway station in downtown Brooklyn.

### WOW!

China's Shanghai Subway is the busiest subway system in the world, with more than 7 million riders every day.

### Payments through the years

The New York City subway system has offered a variety of ways for passengers to pay since it began. Here is a brief history.



#### 1904

When the subway started operating in 1904, it cost a **nickel** (five cents) to buy a ticket to ride. Soon, turnstiles that accepted coins were installed at stations. The fare rose to 10 cents in 1948.

#### 1953

After fares increased to 15 cents in 1953, **tokens** were made. The token's design changed over the years. In 2003, tokens were phased out.







# a vast city run



A New York City subway



Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. (center) at the controls

## The system expands

The first subway line opened on October 27, 1904, in Manhattan (one of the city's boroughs or areas), with Mayor George B. McClellan at the controls with train officials. It was about 9 miles long and had 28 stops. The train was a huge success, carrying an average of 800,000 people per day by 1908, and was rapidly expanded within Manhattan and into Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx (other boroughs). By 1932, three different companies were operating train lines in the city, although these were combined under the New York City Transit Authority in 1953. Because various companies made the trains, some subway lines have letters and others have numbers, and some trains and tunnels are different sizes. In 1968, New York State created the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), which now oversees the subway as well as city buses throughout the region.



## The subway today

The system now has 25 routes and runs all day and night, every day of the year. Work on expanding the subway system has continued in recent years: The 7 line was extended in 2015, and a new line, the Second Avenue subway, opened in 2017, with plans to extend it further. On average, more than 3.6 million people rode the subway every weekday in 2023, and the Times Square and Grand Central stations in the center of Manhattan often draw the most riders. Throughout its 120 years, the subway has withstood natural disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012, to transport New Yorkers and visitors across the city.



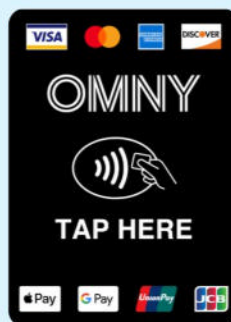
### 1994

The **MetroCard** was introduced in 1994, when a fare cost \$1.25. The card could be refilled and reused.



### 2019

In 2019, riders could **tap to pay** at turnstiles with their phone, credit card, or OMNY (One Metro New York) card. Today, a one-way subway ride typically costs \$2.90.







## HIGH FLIERS

The first living creatures deliberately sent to space were fruit flies, which were launched by the US in 1946.

Samples from animals would be stored on the Moon.

# Preserving Earth's many species

A team of scientists at the Smithsonian Institution wants to protect endangered species on Earth by sending the animals' frozen skin cells to the Moon. Cells are the tiny units that make up all living things.

Under the proposed plan, cell samples from animals would be kept safe using a method called "cryopreservation." This is when living cells or tissues are stored at extremely low temperatures to stop them from decaying (breaking down). There is nowhere on Earth that reaches this temperature naturally. However, on the Moon there are craters near the south and north poles that never get any sunlight and are always at  $-320^{\circ}\text{F}$  or below.

The team said a special facility would need to be built on the Moon to store the frozen samples. There are already facilities like this on Earth, including the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (see box), but they require resources like electricity, staff, and specific materials. They are also vulnerable to threats including climate change, fire, and flooding. Cells kept at the lunar storage facility would not need humans to keep an eye on them or a power source to keep them cold.

The scientists tested their cryopreservation method and successfully froze cells from a starry goby fish. They plan to start by preserving wildlife at risk of dying out, like pollinators such as bees. If those species went extinct, their cells could be defrosted and used to create a living clone (copy) of the animal. Then they would move on to additional species. "Our ultimate goal would be to cryopreserve most species on Earth," said Mary Hagedorn, the study's lead author.

In addition to fine-tuning the cryopreservation freezing technology, the researchers must also determine how they would transport the wildlife skin cell samples to the Moon.

The journey would require specially designed packaging that keeps the samples safe while they're in transit and also protects them from the harsh conditions of space.

The team said that some of the early tests for the project could be done on the International Space Station, a laboratory orbiting 254 miles from Earth. They are also calling for other partners, including scientists and major scientific institutions, to join in their effort and help make it a reality.



A starry goby fish

## The Svalbard Global Seed Vault



The Svalbard Global Seed Vault (above) was created to store seeds from plants around the world in order to preserve crop diversity. It contains more than 1.3 million types of seeds and has space for millions more. It was built in Svalbard, a group of Norwegian islands in the Arctic Ocean, because the cold temperatures there will help protect the vault if it loses power.

Crop diversity is important for protecting the food supply. Humans used to eat about 50,000 types of plants, but now 90% of our diet is made up of only about 15 types, like wheat, rice, and corn. If anything were to happen to those types, our food supply would be at risk. Growing a wider variety of plants makes crops healthier and more adaptable to climate change and gives people more food options.





## Ancient hunters used a smart method

Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, think prehistoric humans may have used a method called pike hunting to kill large animals like mammoths about 13,000 years ago.

Rather than throwing spears, hunters may have planted spears in the ground with the sharp end pointing up. Charging animals would have been impaled on the spears.

The pike method would have wounded large animals more than a moving spear would. That's because the force of a charging animal is greater than the force of a spear thrown by a human arm.

Pike hunting also would have prevented early humans from losing or breaking their weapons. Spears required

time and effort to make. The poles were made of wood that was hard to find, and their tips were razor-sharp rocks shaped by hand into what's called Clovis points.

To confirm their theory, researchers reviewed historical writings and artwork from around the world, searching for evidence of pike hunting in different cultures. They also tested models of spears and Clovis points to see how much force they could take before breaking. Next the team hopes to build a model mammoth and see how it is affected by a planted spear.

The work "opens up a whole new way of looking at how people lived among these incredible animals," said Scott Byram, who led the research.



Clovis points



A rendering of a mammoth

**SHARP DISCOVERY**  
Clovis points were first found about 100 years ago near Clovis, New Mexico, and range from 1.5 to 5 inches long.



Stores often sell oranges in orange bags, lemons in yellow bags, and limes in green bags.

## Making fruit appear ripier than it is

Karl Gegenfurtner, a German scientist, found that grocery stores are using a visual effect called color assimilation to sell fruit. That's when objects appear to be the same shade as a pattern placed over them.

Gegenfurtner did the research after buying oranges in an orange-colored mesh bag. The fruit looked bright orange in the bag but pale and green when he took it out. He suspected that the color of the mesh was causing the effect.

To confirm this, he first ruled out that reflected light was the cause. He placed orange stripes in front of a photograph of an unripe orange. The photo reflected much less light than a real piece of fruit would have, but the orange still looked more colorful. And when he put colored stripes over pictures of human faces, the faces took on the stripes' colors.

Gegenfurtner said the study offers "a fresh perspective on how visual perception can be manipulated."



## A new paint that cools off cars



Cars with the new paint

The automaker Nissan has developed a new paint that can significantly lower the temperature inside a car, even when it's parked directly in the sun. When treated with the paint, cars stayed as much as 21.6° F cooler than vehicles with regular paint.

The paint contains a material that reflects certain kinds of light, which prevents it from heating up as much in the first place. It also has a material that directs heat away from the car. The paint could keep passengers more comfortable and reduce the need for air conditioning.



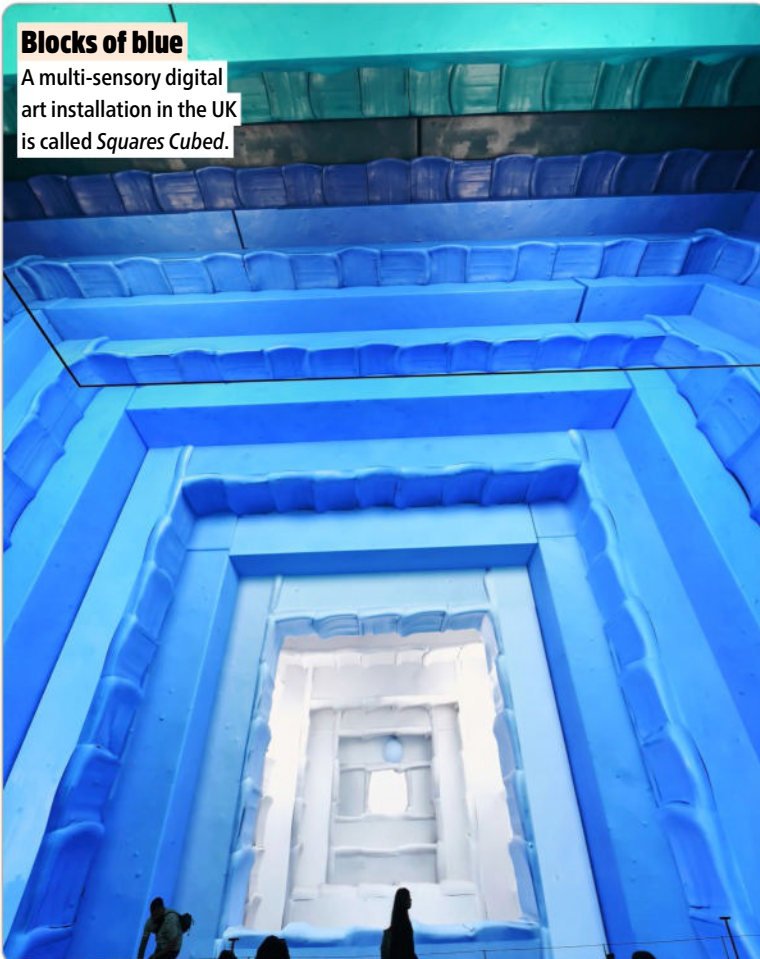


# Photos of the week



## Parade ready

A brightly decorated street is part of an annual festival in Costa Rica.



## Blocks of blue

A multi-sensory digital art installation in the UK is called *Squares Cubed*.



GETTY IMAGES (6)



# Photos of the week



## Head over heels

A young man performs in front of a crowd during a religious event in India.



## Mellow yellow

Rows of sunflowers are in full bloom in a field in China.



## Colorful costume

A child participates in a Caribbean carnival in the UK.



## Dramatic design

A building on a bridge in China resembles an eagle with outspread wings.





# Sports

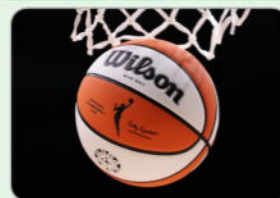
## FAN FEST

Attendance at a recent game between the Indiana Fever and Washington Mystics was 20,711, a new WNBA record.



Mercury players Natasha Cloud (left) and Monique Billings (right) with Alanna Smith of the Lynx (center)

## Expansion news

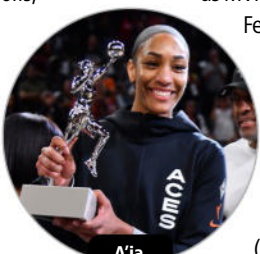


The WNBA is adding a team that will play in Portland, Oregon, starting in 2026. It will be the league's 15th team, and they are set to use the same arena as the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers. A previous WNBA franchise, the Portland Fire, competed from 2000 to 2002.

# Playoffs begin for WNBA teams

The 2024 WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) regular season came to an end on September 19. The top eight teams advanced to the first round of the postseason playoffs, which began on September 22.

On the morning of the first game of the playoffs, the WNBA named Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP). It is the third time she has received the honor. This year, Wilson set WNBA records for total points and rebounds. A panel of 67 national sportswriters and broadcasters voted for the MVP, and Wilson was the first player to earn every judge's first-place vote since Cynthia Cooper did so in 1997.



A'ja Wilson

The WNBA will announce more awards during the playoffs, but the Associated Press (AP) also released a list of WNBA honors. It included Wilson as MVP and Caitlin Clark of the Indiana

Fever as Rookie of the Year. Clark set an overall record for assists and had the most average points per game for a rookie. She also helped her team make the postseason for the first time since 2016.

In the playoffs, the top-seeded (ranked) team is the New York Liberty, who were 32–8 in the regular season. The Minnesota Lynx are number two. Most of the teams that made the playoffs clinched their spots before the end of the regular season, but the eighth and final spot was still up for grabs

on the last day. With the Atlanta Dream, Chicago Sky, and Washington Mystics in contention for it, the Dream secured it with a 78–67 upset win over the Liberty. Tina Charles had 10 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta and now has more double-doubles (double digits in two statistical categories) than any other player in WNBA history.

In the first round of the playoffs, teams compete in best-of-three series. The top four seeds won in Game 1 action. The Liberty beat the Dream, the Lynx beat the seventh-seeded Phoenix Mercury, the third-seeded Connecticut Sun beat the sixth-seeded Fever, and the fourth-seeded Aces, the WNBA's defending champions, beat the fifth-seeded Seattle Storm. When *The Week Junior* went to press, the other games had not been played. The second round starts on September 29.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### TENNIS

The Laver Cup, a competition between top men's tennis players—six from Europe and six from the rest of the world—was held in Berlin, Germany, and ended on September 22. Thanks to a win by Carlos Alcaraz of Spain over Taylor Fritz of the US that day, Team Europe earned enough points to become the champions. It was Team Europe's fifth Laver Cup win and its first since 2021.

The Laver Cup's Team Europe



### COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

The fifth-ranked University of Nebraska defeated fourth-ranked University of Louisville, 3–0, on September 22. It was the fifth time Nebraska has beaten a ranked team this season.

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

On September 21, Temple University's Maddux Trujillo kicked a 64-yard field goal in a 45–29 win over Utah State. It is the longest field goal in Division I college football since 2008 and one of the longest in NCAA football history.





Shohei Ohtani

## FURRY FRIEND

Shohei Ohtani has a dog named Decoy, who is a Dutch Kooikerhondje.

## Incredible game for Shohei Ohtani

On September 19, Los Angeles Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani became the first Major League Baseball (MLB) player to hit 50 home runs and steal 50 bases in one season. He achieved the feat—and much more—during a 20–4 victory over the Miami Marlins.

Ohtani, last season's Most Valuable Player in the American League, is from Japan and has been playing in the US since 2018. He has immense talent as both a hitter and a pitcher, which makes him a rare player. Ohtani had surgery on his pitching arm last season, so he has been playing only as a designated hitter this season.

Coming into the game on September 19, Ohtani had 48 home runs and 49 stolen bases. Over six at-bats, he had six hits, including three homers; scored four runs; had 10 RBIs (runs

batted in); and stole two bases. With two doubles and a single to go along with his three home runs, he became the first player in MLB history to rack up 17 total bases in a game without hitting four home runs. He also became the first MLB player to hit three home runs and record two stolen bases in the same game, as well as the first to record 10 or more RBIs, six or more hits, and five or more extra-base hits in one game. Afterward, Dodgers second baseman Gavin Lux said, "That has to be the greatest baseball game of all time."

When *The Week Junior* went to press, Ohtani had 53 home runs and 55 stolen bases. The only player with more home runs at the time was Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees, who had 55. The regular season ends on September 29, and the Dodgers have clinched a postseason spot.



## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Anna-Maria Hadbah**

Team: **Dearborn Dolphins Swim Club**

**"Coach Anna is my favorite coach for a lot of reasons. I have had a bunch of coaches, but Coach Anna makes a real effort to give me personal attention so I can hit my goals. Even though there are a ton of other swimmers with me, she always gives me tips, whether I am at a meet or practice. She's always been helpful and kind. I have become a better swimmer because of her."** Benjamin, 10, Michigan



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



## Bailey Sparks

AGE: 21 SPORT: SOCCER

TEAM: SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

**Family game** My two older brothers played soccer when they were younger. When I saw them do it, I wanted to play too and see what it was about. In third grade, I cut out all other sports to pursue soccer and be as good as I could be.

**Role model** I tried to base my playing style on Eden Hazard, a former Chelsea player. He was attacking-minded, creative, and a game-changer.

**Tough talk** As my family watched me play growing up, I'd hear good things and criticism. When you get criticized by a sibling, sometimes you don't want to take it. I've started to understand they know what they're saying. I just needed the mental strength to hear it.

**Hard times** My second year of college soccer, I tore my quad muscle. That was a big thing to overcome. What I took away was learning how to take care of myself. Soccer isn't easy, especially when you're trying to play at a high level—a lot of pain comes with it. But I like the struggle.

**Pre-game ritual** I played in a lot of big games growing up, and I'd get nervous. This past year, I started telling myself before games, "I'm the best player in the midfield. I'm going to do my job. I can do my job the best." It gives me a confidence boost.

**Looking ahead** I'm planning to graduate at the end of this fall. My biggest goal is to enter the MLS SuperDraft, get picked up, and get a contract.

**Wise words** I had a coach who would say, "Get 1% better every day."







**WOW!**

In addition to writing the graphic novel *White Bird: A Wonder Story*, R.J. Palacio also illustrated it.



White Bird

## A film about kindness

*White Bird*, based on a graphic novel by R.J. Palacio, is a moving story that centers on a pair of teens during World War II.

A new film is bringing a popular book by *Wonder* author R.J. Palacio to life. *White Bird* is based on the 2019 graphic novel *White Bird: A Wonder Story* and is a tale about two teens and the power of kindness. It arrives in theaters on October 4 and is rated PG-13.

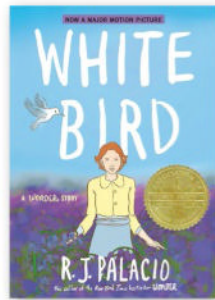
*White Bird* takes place in the present and during World War II (1939–1945). One of the present-day characters is Julian, the bully from *Wonder*. He is portrayed by Bryce Gheisar, who also played Julian in the

2017 film *Wonder*. In *White Bird*, his grandmother, Sara, tells him about a major event in her life. Her story was also recounted in the e-book *The Julian Chapter: A Wonder Story*.

Most of the film is a flashback set during the Holocaust, when 6 million Jewish men, women, and children, as well as millions of others, were killed by the German Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler. Sara is Jewish, and when soldiers come to her town in France to round up Jewish people, she is helped by an unlikely hero: a non-Jewish boy

from her school named Julian, who is disabled and often bullied. His family hides her, and she and Julian become close. Some elements of the film differ from the book, including the fact that Julian brings Sara films to watch as a virtual escape. Director Marc Forster said the movie has “a fairy-tale quality, which contrasts with the cruelty of the Second World War and the Holocaust.”

Forster hopes young people will be moved by the film and inspired to think about and discuss bullying, violence, and anti-Semitism (hostility or prejudice against Jewish people). If that happens, he said, “then I’ve done my job.”



### 3 more books by R. J. Palacio

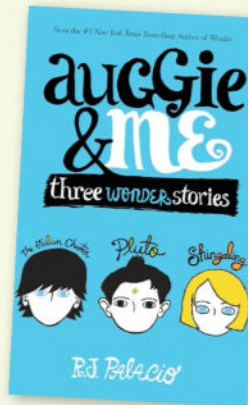
#### Wonder

In this 2012 book, fifth-grader Auggie Pullman, a boy with a facial difference, attends school with other kids for the first time. It isn’t easy, but he becomes a model of kindness.



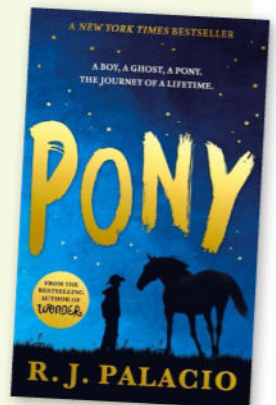
#### Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories

This compilation from 2015 features three previously published e-books written from the perspective of kids in Auggie’s life: bully Julian, old friend Christopher, and classmate Charlotte.



#### Pony

In 2021, Palacio introduced fans to Silas, a 12-year-old boy with a friend who is a ghost. After Silas’ father is taken by outlaws, he sets out to find him on a pony the criminals left behind. The book has themes of bravery, courage, and friendship.







**The Great Elephant Migration**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
There are about 415,000 African elephants and 50,000 Asian elephants living in the wild.

## Elephant sculptures on tour

**T**he *Great Elephant Migration*, a new public art exhibit featuring 100 life-size animal sculptures, is traveling around the US and helping raise money to support elephants and other endangered species. The herd began its US tour in Newport, Rhode Island, this summer and is now in New York City until October 20. It moves to Miami, Florida, in December and will visit other cities across the US next year.

Each sculpture was crafted by artists from Southern India and took about three to four months to create. There are four sizes of elephants in the herd, including 5-foot-tall babies and adults up to 15 feet tall. They weigh as much as 770 pounds. All the elephants were inspired by real elephants in the Nilgiri Hills mountain range in India. The sculptures are made from dried Lantana camara, an invasive plant that harms wildlife

habitats. The material was chosen to draw a connection to conservation and demonstrate how art can address environmental issues. The elephants are for sale online and cost between \$8,000 and \$22,000, with proceeds going to conservation organizations.

In New York City, *The Great Elephant Migration* is in a neighborhood called the Meatpacking District. The sculptures are spread across several blocks in a way that replicates how elephants move through the streets in India. Ruth Ganesh, a trustee of Elephant Family USA, the organization coordinating the US tour, told *The New*

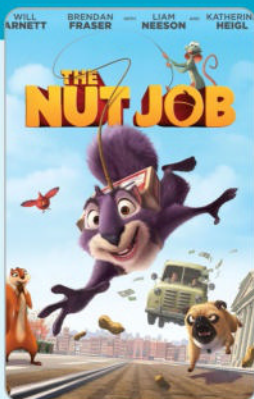
*York Times* that she has loved witnessing how people react to the exhibit and how it brings elephants to communities that don't usually see them. "We're trying to re-create that feeling of awe, wonder, and connection," she said.



**A young elephant in the herd**



### READER RECOMMENDS



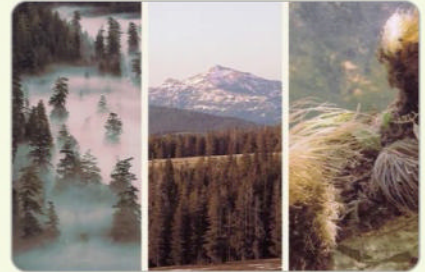
#### **The Nut Job** PG (Available on all major platforms)

"This is a funny film about a naughty squirrel, Surly, who gets banished from his park home after he accidentally destroys the food supply that park animals were storing for winter. He and his friends Buddy, a rat, and Andie, a caring red squirrel, plan to rob a local nut shop to restore the food supply. Unbeknownst to them, the shop is home to a gang of criminals who are plotting to rob a nearby bank. Surly and his friends end up entangled in their plan. I like this film because it has cute animals and good lessons, such as the importance of teamwork and caring for your friends." Nikita, 12, California

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



### THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



#### **National Parks: USA** (Nat Geo)

This new series showcases national parks in different countries, and the first season explores five in the US: Zion, Yellowstone, Katmai, the Everglades, and Olympic. Each episode has stunning footage and insights from experts on the beauty and significance of the parks.



#### **The Bad Guys: Haunted Heist** (Netflix)

In the third film based on Aaron Blabey's *The Bad Guys* book series, Mr. Wolf and his crew visit a haunted mansion on Halloween. They steal an amulet, but it turns out to be cursed and triggers real hauntings. The team has to return it to make things normal again.



#### **The Voice** (NBC) Mondays at 8 p.m. ET

The hit singing competition series is back. Returning coaches Reba McEntire and Gwen Stefani are joined by new coaches Snoop Dogg and Michael Bublé. The show has revived Blind Audition blocks, so the coaches can stop one another from picking contestants.





## On screen

### FUN FACT

In 2023, there were 401 babies born in the US who were given the name Zelda.



The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom

# Princess stars in Zelda game

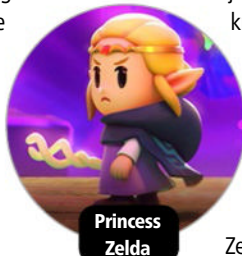
The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom is a new action-adventure game. It is out now exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

Echoes of Wisdom is the 21st game in the Legend of Zelda series. In all the past games, the star and hero has been the character Link, but this one is the first to feature Princess Zelda as the main playable character. The game also has a different style of visuals than recent games, which have looked like paintings. Instead, Echoes of Wisdom has simple, colorful characters exploring magical 2.5D environments that look like a toy set. The action is followed with a top-down camera, like Zelda games from the 1980s and 1990s.

The story begins with mysterious rifts (openings) appearing all over Hyrule. Anything that ends up in one is transported to another dimension. Both Link and the King of

Hyrule get captured by a rift and are sent to The Still World, a dangerous place where fragments of Hyrule are piling up. Villagers think Zelda is responsible for the rifts, so they wind up sending her to jail. However, she breaks out with the help of a new fairy character named Tri and sets off on a journey to figure out what is causing the rifts. While Link is known for his sword and archery skills, Zelda uses a magical Tri Rod, which can create copies of items. The imitations are known as "echoes," and they help her solve puzzles, move out of sticky situations, and win fights.

The game takes the princess on a journey across some of the most iconic places in Hyrule, including the Gerudo desert and Eldin volcano, and is also filled with dungeons like classic Zelda games. The result is a royally exciting adventure.



Princess Zelda

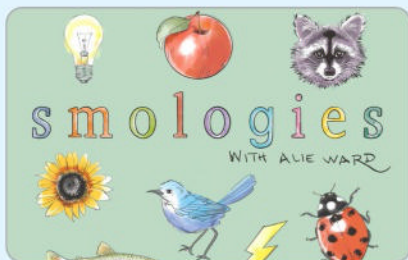


## PODCAST OF THE WEEK

### SMOLOGIES

Major podcast platforms

This series takes the popular science podcast Ologies, which is made for adults, and turns it into shows for kids. It is hosted by science journalist Alie Ward, who interviews scientists and has lively discussions about topics that have included cursive writing, slimy hagfish, and moon mysteries.



## WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



### PBS KIDS TOGETHER WE CAN

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-WeCan](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-WeCan)

Learn lessons about Election Day, branches of government, holidays, and other important subjects through fun music videos starring kids. "It All Begins with Me" focuses on leadership, while "Together We Can" is a catchy song that could help you memorize the names of the 50 US states.



## APP OF THE WEEK

### PLANET WOW WILDLIFE ADVENTURE

Apple App Store, Google Play

You begin this game by choosing an animal to control, like a chameleon or snake, then set off on quests in locations such as deserts and rainforests. You'll have to use your animal's special powers to find food, face opponents, and escape danger.







## BOOK OF THE WEEK

# May the Best Player Win

By Kyla Zhao

(G.P. Putnam's Sons)

Even though May didn't finish first at the state's middle school chess championship, she takes home an award for being the best female player and is the subject of a feature story in a chess magazine. The principal asks May and the school's top soccer player, Mario, to be on a billboard highlighting the school's accomplishments. May's friend and teammate, Ralph, is jealous of all the attention she's receiving and tells her that male chess players are better than female ones. May gets upset and bets Ralph she'll

be chosen as the team captain when the school competes in the national tournament.

May and Mario start to become friends, but the pressure to be captain begins eroding May's confidence during the matches. Playing chess doesn't

seem as fun as it used to be. Will May be able to recapture her enthusiasm for the sport and earn the coveted spot as captain? The author, who is a former competitive chess player, addresses gender bias, self-doubt, and anxiety in this riveting story. You'll also discover many



## ASK THE AUTHOR

### Kyla Zhao

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

#### Did you play chess when you were growing up?

I started playing chess at age 6. I played with my grandpa, and I would not let him leave the chessboard until I won! I played competitively for many years.

#### What do you hope kids take away from this book?

I hope May's adventures inspire readers to hold on to what brings them joy. Your passion is yours to own, regardless of other people's opinions and expectations.

#### What is the book's theme?

Everyone deserves a fair shot! You can't judge someone's skills based on their gender. Also, it's great to want to win, but don't let that keep you from enjoying an activity.

#### What's something you enjoy in your free time?

Falling in love with a song and listening to it until I get sick of it.

#### What do you wish you could be a champion in?

Gymnastics!



## 4 series to read if you enjoyed Harry Potter

The magical schools and secret potions in these selections are spellbinding.

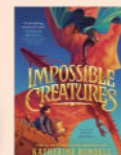


### The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel

By Michael Scott

(Ember)

In this novel, Nicholas Flamel, the nearly 700-year-old character in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, is guarding a book that has the secret to eternal youth. When someone tries to steal it, twin teens try to help. *Ages 10 and up*



### Impossible Creatures

By Katherine Rundell, illustrated by Ashley Mackenzie

(Knopf Books for Young Readers)

Christopher and Mal race to save the world's last magical place in this first book of a new series. They even negotiate with dragons to learn why the magic on a cluster of islands is fading. The book has more than 60 illustrations to swoop you into the story. *Ages 10 and up*



### The Marvellers

By Dhonielle Clayton

(Henry Holt and Co.)

Ella is the first person in her family to attend a magical school in the sky. She's settling into her new routine when a criminal escapes prison. People suspect Ella and her family of having something to do with the escape. Can she clear her family's name? This fantasy series is full of twists. *Ages 10 and up*



### The School for Good and Evil

By Soman Chainani

(HarperCollins)

In this first book in a popular series, Agatha and Sophie first think they've been put in the wrong categories in their new school, which trains children to become heroes or villains. But after some competitions and friendship drama, do their roles suit them more than they realized? *Ages 8 and up*



## READER RECOMMENDS

### Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom By Gigi D.G.

"Cucumber just wants to go to wizard school, but instead he has to go on a quest to save Dreamside from the Nightmare Knight and his Disaster Masters. His little sister, Almond, would love to be a hero, and Cucumber would be happy to let her handle the whole thing for him. But no, Cucumber is the chosen one. This webcomic turned graphic novel is an all-around hilarious story." Kit, 14, Iowa

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## How to...

### DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 1.5 billion people around the world are vegetarian.

# Eat more like a vegetarian

## Try these ideas for embracing plant-based meals—at least sometimes!

In recent years, more people have chosen to eat more plant-based foods—such as beans, vegetables, and whole grains—and less meat, poultry, and fish. They may have meat sometimes, but their goal is to eat vegetarian more regularly. If you want to try it with your family, here's how.

### Spread enthusiasm

You can share what you have learned about eating a plant-based diet with the dinner decision-makers in your home. They may be more easily convinced if you take a role in planning meals. "If you're coming up with a dinner idea, that's a big help to your family," Jenny Rosenstrach, author of the new cookbook *The Weekday Vegetarians Get Simple*, told *The Week Junior*. (See the book and her recipe for empanadas on the opposite page.) Take it a step further: See what ingredients you already have on hand, and make a list of what you might need to buy.

### Start with your favorites

Making the switch to eating less meat can be surprisingly easy. "A good place to begin eating more vegetarian is to start where you already are," said Rosenstrach. "A lot of the foods your family eats may already be vegetarian."

For example, if your family likes pizza, experiment with different colorful plant toppings, like eggplant or broccoli. If you like quesadillas, try adding diced, sautéed veggies such as poblano peppers, zucchini, or onions.

### Aim for flexibility

Although many people are happy to eat vegetarian all the time, you don't necessarily have to aim for that. Rosenstrach said she and her family decided to eat meat only on the weekends, which made the change to eating more vegetables during the week easier. Ask a parent if that is something your family could try. Not having a strict rule may help you cut back on how much meat you eat, Rosenstrach said. Another option is starting to eat vegetarian for lunch when you pack it yourself or buy it in the school cafeteria.

### Add a hook

When your family is experimenting, try to have at least one "hook" with your meal. "A hook is something you're especially looking forward to on your dinner table," said Rosenstrach. For instance, it might be a homemade flatbread to serve with a delicious new curry or a simple dressing (like olive oil, fresh lemon juice, and salt and pepper) you whisked together for a green salad.



Add color to your meals.

## A few must-haves



Keeping these ingredients on hand can make vegetarian meal planning quick and easy.

**Premade pizza dough** It's easy to make your own pizza when you have dough ready to go! You can find it in the refrigerated section at the supermarket.

**Baked tofu** Unlike regular extra-firm tofu, baked tofu already has its moisture expelled. That makes it fast-cooking. Fry it up in a skillet with vegetables for a satisfying lunch or dinner.

**Frozen precooked rice** Having precooked rice in the freezer means you can always make a meal of vegetable fried rice.





## FLAVOR BOOST

Sazón, a spice blend found in many Latin American cuisines, is Spanish for "seasoning."



**WARNING!**  
Ask an adult's permission before using the stovetop or oven.

# Bake up pinto bean empanadas

## Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 15-ounce can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 small jalapeño pepper, seeded and minced
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1½ teaspoons sazón (such as Badia brand)
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 10 frozen 6-inch empanada discs, thawed
- 1½ cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 large egg, beaten
- Store-bought salsa

## Instructions

1. Heat oven to 400° F. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.
2. In a medium skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the beans, ½ cup water, and the jalapeño. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes while gently mashing the beans with a fork. (If they look dry, moisten with 1 tablespoon of water at a time.)
3. Add the tomato paste, sazón, and cayenne. Mix well until the beans resemble refried beans. Remove from the heat.
4. Place the empanada rounds on the prepared sheet pan. Spoon about 1½ tablespoons of the bean filling on one side of the dough round and top with 1 to 2 tablespoons cheddar. Fold the dough over, creating a half-moon shape, and press lightly.

5. Seal each empanada's seam together by pressing the edges with a fork. Repeat until you've worked through all the empanadas. Lightly brush each empanada with the beaten egg and use a sharp knife to poke a few holes in the top of each one. This will allow steam to escape while baking.
6. Bake until the empanadas are golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool briefly. Eat warm or at room temperature, served with salsa. Makes 10 empanadas.



**Tip** You can save extra empanadas to enjoy later. Freeze them in a freezer bag, then reheat them individually wrapped in foil at 350° F for 20 minutes.

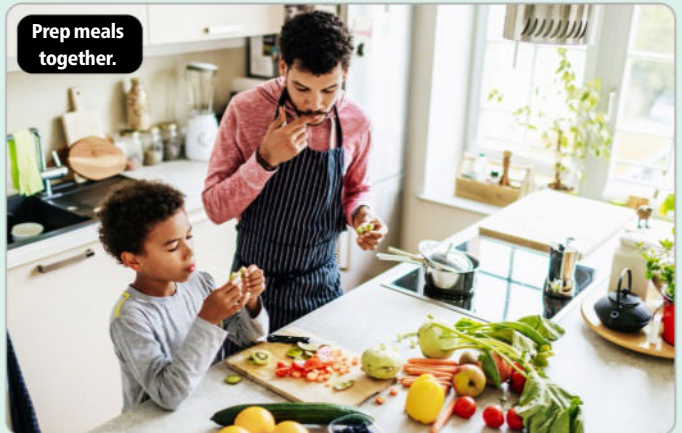


## ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

## SHARE THE BENEFITS OF EATING LESS MEAT

There are many different reasons people might decide to eat less meat or none at all. Some people make the choice for ethical reasons, meaning they don't want to eat animals because they're living creatures. Another reason is because eating plants can be better for the environment. Farming vegetables and grains requires less water, land, and other natural resources than what's needed to produce meat, which means it's more eco-friendly to eat those non-meat foods. Explain to your family your reasons for eating less meat, then ask if you can be involved in shopping for and preparing meals with that goal in mind.

Prep meals together.







# Puzzles



## Crisscross

Each of these things associated with museums fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

### 3 letters

MAP  
URN

### 4 letters

CASE  
HALL  
VASE

### 6 letters

MODERN  
MUSEUM  
PATRON

### 8 letters

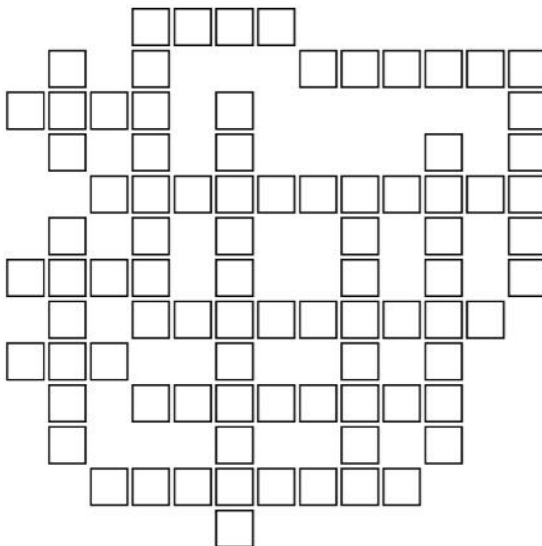
ARTIFACT  
COLLAGES  
FINE ARTS  
PORTRAIT  
SECURITY

### 9 letters

SCULPTURE

### 11 letters

ANTIQUITIES  
MASTERPIECE



## Take five

Five 5-letter words associated with a concert tour are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | E | N | C | E |
| T | R | B | E | H |
| S | U | E | G | M |
| M | L | A | U | A |
| A | T | R | N | S |

## ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters L-E-G. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. Against the law

□ □ L E G □ □

2. Place of learning after high school

□ □ □ L E G □

3. Story about King Arthur, for example

L E G □ □ □

4. What you pledge to the flag

□ □ L E G □ □ □ □ □

5. Voter at a political convention

□ □ L E G □ □ □

ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

## SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 |   |   | 3 |   |   |
|   | 5 |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 3 |   |   | 5 |
| 5 |   |   | 1 |   |   |
|   | 4 |   |   | 1 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   |   | 6 |

## Spot the difference

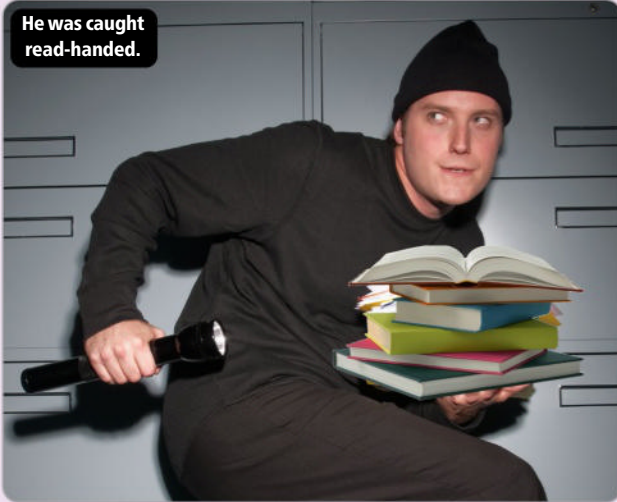
These two pictures of a fat bear appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?







He was caught  
read-handed.



## Suspected thief stops to read

In Rome, Italy, a suspected burglar was caught reading a book in a stranger's home. After climbing in through a balcony, the suspect saw a book about Greek mythology and started to read it. The intruder later claimed that he thought he had climbed into a room where a friend was staying. However, the owner of the apartment alerted police, and the suspect was arrested with what appeared to be stolen goods in his bag. The book's author, Giovanni Nucci, said he would like to give the suspect a copy because "I'd like him to be able to finish it."

Janel Hawkins  
with her art



## Shaping sculptures by the seashore

Artist Janel Hawkins creates incredible sculptures of animals, mansions, and mermaids—all from sand. She makes about 40 pieces on Alabama beaches each year. "I think it's such a good challenge," she said. She also teaches sand sculpting classes and creates sculptures for music festivals and weddings. Each creation can take four to seven hours to complete, and fans often stop by to watch her in action. Once completed, the sculptures are photographed before being washed away by the tide. "If my art lasted forever, then it wouldn't be as cool," Hawkins said.



Don't hog  
the ball!

## Football players run a-muck

All's fair in mud and war at the Mud Bowl. For three days in September, a dozen amateur football teams trudged for touchdowns through a knee-deep bog at the Hog Coliseum in New Hampshire. Participants in the annual event, who have included former college and professional football stars, say the memories and the mud stay with them long after the games are over. "You'll be cleaning out your ears for a long while," said one veteran player. But it's for a good cause: In 50 years, the Mud Bowl has raised more than \$1 million for charity.

Real or  
fake?



Would you buy  
Dubai's AI pie?

## Pizzabots invent wacky menu

Some people think pineapple on a pizza is a step too far, but how about a slice topped with pasta and strawberries or blueberries and breakfast cereal? These are some of the unusual suggestions that came up when Dodo Pizza in Dubai asked artificial intelligence (AI, a computer imitating human learning) to invent its new menu. Surprisingly, the AI's chicken, paneer cheese, and tahini sauce special was a huge hit with customers. Is this a true story, or did we toss you a lie?\*

\*Real! Dodo asked an AI chatbot called ChatGPT to create pizza recipes. The head menu developer said, "As a chef, I wouldn't mix these ingredients even on a pizza, but [they were] surprisingly good." Dodo now plans to try the AI at its other locations.





# Your turn

## Editor's note

Fat Bear Week is back! Right now in Katmai National Park in Alaska, the brown bears who live there are chomping on salmon to bulk up before their long winter hibernation (p10). The question is: Which bears are bulkiest? Two colossal competitions are about to reveal the answers. First, young bears will take part in the Fat Bear Junior contest. After that, animals will compete for the top prize during Fat Bear Week. Members of the public will cast their votes online to crown the chubbiest champ. You can find out more at [fatbearweek.org](http://fatbearweek.org)! Speaking of impressive competitors, many people are saying that Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Dodgers is the best player in Major League Baseball history—and that the spectacular game he played on September 19 was the greatest of all time (p19). We congratulate him on his record-setting achievements and look forward to seeing how the rest of this exciting season turns out.

**Andrea Barbalich**  
Editor-in-Chief



## Organizing a drive for animals

“Earlier this year, I saw a brochure that talked about animals in need and it gave me an idea. I looked at the toys that my dog didn’t play with and decided to give them to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I wanted to volunteer with them, but they said I was too young. So my dad and I made more than 200 fliers and distributed them around our neighborhood. We asked for used blankets, towels, newspapers, magazines, treats, toys, and leashes. Three weeks later, we were able to deliver six carloads of donated items to the ASPCA and the Humane Society. I also got a chance to read to the dogs, which I do weekly. You can help too!”



B, 9, Missouri

**Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**

**JOKE OF THE WEEK**  
What's worse than raining cats and dogs?  
Hailing taxis

## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



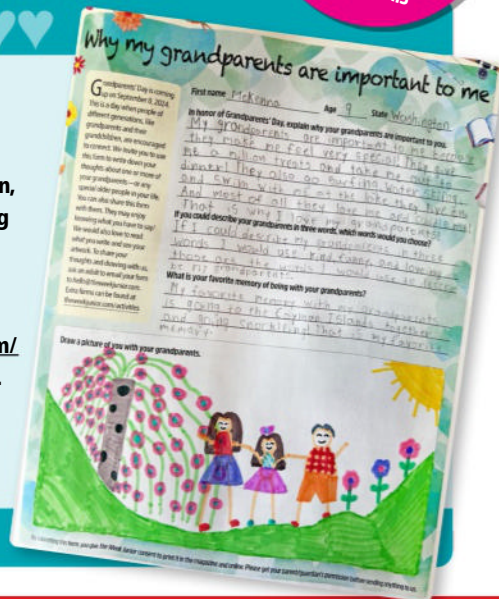
### Point Foundation

This organization helps LGBTQ youth from around the world pursue higher education. It grants them scholarships to study in a US educational institution and supports their career growth by connecting them with mentors, peers, and alumni members, as well as organizing leadership conferences. Since its founding in 2001, the group has granted about \$50 million in scholarships. Find out more at [pointfoundation.org](http://pointfoundation.org).

**POINT FOUNDATION**  
THE LGBTQ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

## What makes your grandparents special?

McKenna, who is 9 years old and from Washington, told us she enjoys swimming in the lake and going out for dinner with her grandparents. A favorite memory is snorkeling with them in the Cayman Islands. To celebrate your grandparent or any special older person, go to [kidstheweekjunior.com/activities](http://kidstheweekjunior.com/activities) to print out a form (like the one at right). Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). We'll feature some of the responses in future issues.



**THE WEEK Junior**

**IT'S YOUR TURN**

Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



# Your turn



## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"We made the cheesy ham sliders, and they were delicious!" **Asher, 10, Texas**

"We loved reading *The Week Junior* on our long trip to Stonehenge!"  
**Ameya, 9, and Ansha, 9, Oregon**



"I love Mario, and I liked the story about the game on the On Screen page." **Caspian, 8, New York**



## Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Linda Stanley**

School: **Fruitland Primary School**

"Mrs. Stanley was my kindergarten teacher, and she always made up fun activities for us to do. At Christmas time, we made a wooden snowman that was the same height as us and painted and decorated it. Now we can look at it every year to remember how small we were in kindergarten. I am happy I still get to see her around school even though I'm not in her class anymore."

**Emma, 8, Maryland**

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!**

**Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**

## Puzzle answers (from page 26)



**Take five**  
arena  
tunes  
stage  
merch  
album

**All the same**  
1. illegal  
2. college  
3. legend  
4. allegiance  
5. delegate

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |



**Quiz answers (from page 30)** 1 a) 128 "Grazer" 2 True 3 a) A'ja Wilson 4 R.J. Palacio 5 True 6 Clovis points 7 False. She will be the first woman from West Virginia. 8 b) 1904 9 b) The Moon 10 True 11 Kuwohi 12 c) Norway 13 False. She wants to be captain of the chess team. 14 b) Newport, Rhode Island 15 The Mud Bowl

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.





# Quiz

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which bear won Fat Bear Week 2023?

- a) 128 "Grazer"  
b) 151 "Walker"  
c) 435 "Holly"

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Echoes of Wisdom is the first Legend of Zelda game to feature Princess Zelda as the main character.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Which WNBA star was named this season's Most Valuable Player?

- a) A'ja Wilson  
b) Breanna Stewart  
c) Caitlin Clark

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 Who wrote the graphic novel that the new movie *White Bird* is based on?

5 True or false? Amur leopards are the rarest big cats on Earth.

True ☐ False ☐

6 Prehistoric hunters used spears that had razor-sharp tips called what?

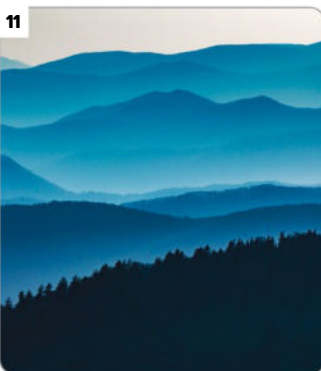
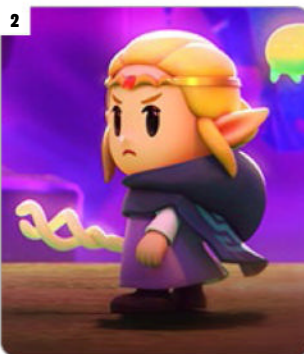
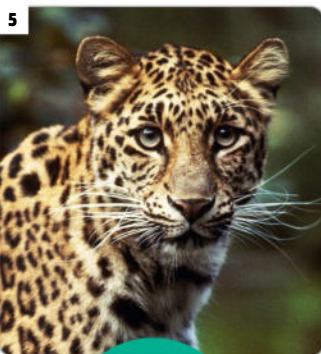
7 True or false? Emily Calandrelli is set to be the first woman from Virginia to go to space.

True ☐ False ☐

8 In what year did the first New York City subway line open?

- a) 1870 b) 1904 c) 1932

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



9 Scientists want to store frozen skin cells from animals in a special facility located where?

- a) Mars b) The Moon c) The Sun

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? Shohei Ohtani is the first MLB player to record 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in the same season.

True ☐ False ☐

11 Going forward, the highest peak in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be known by what name?

12 Which country recently became the first to have more electric cars than gas-powered ones on the road?

- a) Denmark b) Finland c) Norway

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? In the new book *May the Best Player Win*, May wants to be captain of the soccer team.

True ☐ False ☐

14 The *Great Elephant Migration* art exhibit began its US tour in what city?

- a) Miami, Florida  
b) Newport, Rhode Island  
c) New York City

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 What messy football competition takes place each September at the Hog Coliseum in New Hampshire?

ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

## THE WEEK Junior

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**SACRED  
SPACE**

The Ta Prohm temple, a former Buddhist monastery in Cambodia, was built in 1186, during the Khmer dynasty, to honor the king's mother.